

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Fire Safe Home

DATE: October 25, 1995

PLACE: National Consumers League, Washington, DC

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Linda Golodner, National Consumers League
Cleo Manuel, National Consumers League
Tom Newton, CertainTeed Home Institute
John Ottoson, US Fire Administration
Dana Bies, International Association of Fire Chiefs
Jane Marden, American Gas Association
Wayne Morris, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Leon Harper, American Association of Retired Persons
John Widner, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

COMMISSION ATTENDEE:

James F. Hoebel, Engineering Sciences

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: James F. Hoebel *James F. Hoebel*

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The National Consumers League, in May 1995, convened a meeting of interested organizations to form a committee to consider development of fire safety information for homebuyers and home renovators. This meeting was a continuation of the first meeting.

The problem was identified that consumers (homebuyers and renovators) seldom take the time to make choices based on fire safety. The project would publish a consumer/shopper guide which would be enhanced by media outreach activities. Possible information would include checking out existing codes, basic information about smoke and CO detectors, sprinklers, placement, etc., furnishings choice, children's rooms, finding a good inspector, old houses, screens, aluminum windows, egress, water heaters, spontaneous combustion, roofs, insulation, etc.

Mr. Widner focussed on the decline in numbers of inspectors because of declining budgets, leading to inadequate inspections of new houses. Mr. Hoebel commented on the particular problem of older home's electric wiring systems and the need for reinspection. Mr. Morris suggested coordinating with National Electrical Safety Week in May. Mr. Newton suggested that a brief core program be identified, that could be expanded by people with specific interests.

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

X No Mfrs/PrvtlBls or
Products Identified

11-7-95
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Mr. Harper described a new AARP campaign on home safety, where they will distribute information relating to comfort, convenience, safety, and independence through their "Connection for Independent Living". He also described the effort of Lowes Hardware, who have installed kiosks in their stores to distribute fire safety information.

Ms. Golodner summarized, noting that potential sections of the anticipated publication could include structural/mechanical/codes/inspections, ways to cut costs, materials and structure choices, appliances/use & misuse/choice/placement, prevention devices/detectors/sprinklers, scams/fraud, and furnishings, etc. Attendees were asked to bring their available fire safety publications to the next meeting, scheduled for December 6, 1995.

cc: Ron Medford
Anrew Stadnik
Karen Kraushaar